

Daily Express

14 May 1996

Page 7

LATE EDITION

The 'myth' of passive smoking

by NICKI POPE

Medical Correspondent

PASSIVE smokers are not exposed to significant cancer risks, according to research funded by three tobacco companies.

The controversial study also casts doubt on the general degree of harm caused by inhaling other people's smoke.

Professor Jeffrey Idle, of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, who chaired a team of scientists, insisted previous evidence was flawed.

But he was criticised by Professor Richard Peto of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

"All competent scientists who have examined the evidence now available agree that cigarette smoking is, beyond reasonable doubt, a cause of lung cancer," he said.

"Cigarette smoke is such a potent cause of human cancer that it cannot be argued that passive smoking is harmless, although the size of risk to non-smokers is still unresolved."